# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM AND CULTURE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
SECURITY COVER TO PILGRIMS VISITING VAISHNO DEVI
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

**Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the number of pilgrims going on pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Kashmir has increased;

(b) if so, the number of pilgrims visited during each of the last three years;

(c) whether adequate safety measures have been taken to provide security to the pilgrims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 201 ANSWERED ON 29.7.2002 REGARDING SECURITY COVER TO PILGRIMS VISITING VAISHNO DEVI.

(a) : The number of pilgrims going to Vaishno Devi in Jammu has increased during the year 2000 as compared to the year 1999. However, the traffic has declined marginally in the year 2001 as compared to the year 2000.

(b) : The details of the pilgrims visited the Shrine during the last three years are given hereunder:-

| Year | No. of pilgrims |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 46,68,340 |
| 2000 | 51,09,575 |
| 2001 | 50,56,919 |

(c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) : The State Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir has informed the Central Government thatall the important religious places not only in Jammu province but also elsewhere in the State are guarded by static guards in addition to the area security.

The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine including the route from Katra is guarded byCRPF jointly with the State Police and a number of security rings are in place around the shrine.